

The Bethel Courier.

Volume XXI, Number 1

SPRING 1997

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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(continued on page 2)



Sue and Vicky Brown swing in their yard on Clark Street in the early 1950s. In the background are the Morgan and Jodrey residences. Photo courtesy of Barbara Herrick Brown.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CLARK STREET HISTORY

by Barbara Herrick Brown

Editor's Note: The history of this street was presented at the October 6, 1988 monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. It has been expanded and updated for this issue. The author is grateful to all who helped make it possible.

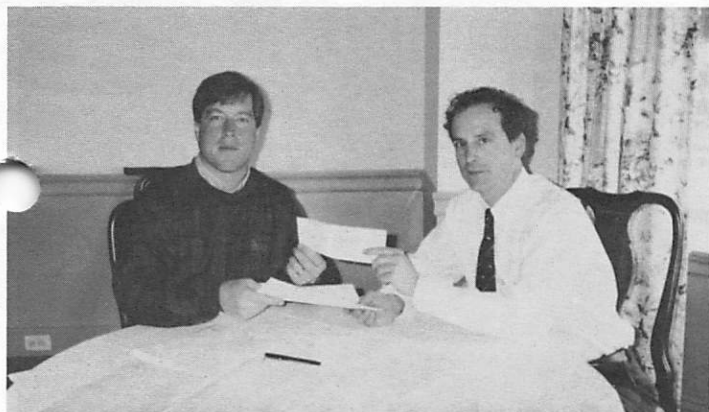
Clark Street was established in 1867 on land of George Haskell (1835-1898) and Charles Mason (1827-1904). It was extended in 1938 in a deed to the Town of Bethel from Nettie Spinney (1877-1968) and a subsequent one from Fred Edwards (1865-1947). In recent years, the street has sometimes been known as "Jodrey Street" since a Jodrey has lived here from the 1920s until 1995. Just six houses comprise the street, three from the 19th century looking remarkably similar (side hall vernacular facing the street with attached ells and barns) and three built in this century in a diversity of styles. It remains a mystery as to just why this street was called "Clark" since no Clark was associated with it in its early days. Speculation has centered on whether it might be related in some way to Clark S. Edwards, the distinguished Civil War soldier, who built the house on Vernon Street just above the street. There is also some confusion as to just where Vernon Street connected to Main in the early days. There are references to Clark Street that lead one to believe that at one time there may have been a connection between the two streets.

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Allan Connors of the Bethel Inn (left) accepts a check from Charles Raymond, Chairman of the Society's Board of Trustees, as a deposit following the signing of a purchase and sale agreement. These documents relate to the acquisition of the adjoining Elms building to become a future museum facility for the Society.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

June 4, 1997 may come to be regarded as a historic date for the Society, because on that day, a purchase and sale agreement was signed with the Bethel Inn to acquire the Elms building, located between the Dr. Moses Mason House and the Bethel Library. Historically, the building is known as the Foster-Straw House, built ca. 1860.

The agreement provides for taking title to the property by the end of 1997. From then on, until the spring of 1999, the Bethel Inn will continue to use the building under a leaseback agreement while it constructs replacement guest accommodations adjacent to the main Inn building. Under the agreement, the property is expected to become available to the Society for renovations beginning in April 1999. The Inn will continue to own and operate its Conference Center behind the Elms.

A major Capital Campaign is currently being launched to provide the funds for the purchase, renovation, and operating income for the facility, which is to become the Bethel Historical Society's Center for Local and Regional History. This will provide badly needed space for exhibits, research, and collection storage. Members and friends of the Society will be receiving a special mailing on the project with a number of opportunities to participate. We hope everyone connected with the organization will join in this exciting endeavor.

Walter Hatch

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(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

1997 Calendars (New England Barns or Covered Bridges) \$9.95
Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each
(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

Booklets (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents ea.

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1880 Map of Three Bethel Villages \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

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Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50

Placemats, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper
Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* \$20 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$14.99 Paper

Bethel, *Maine Cemeteries* \$9.50 Paper

Crosby, *From An Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95
Cloth \$24.95 Paper

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard*
\$13.95 Paper

Howe, *Concise History of the Maine State Grange* \$20 Cloth

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad*
\$20 Paper

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore 1690-1764* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine, 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

Maine the Pine State: *From Prehistory to the Present* \$29.95 Paper
Mills, *Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family*
\$5 Paper

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$7.50 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

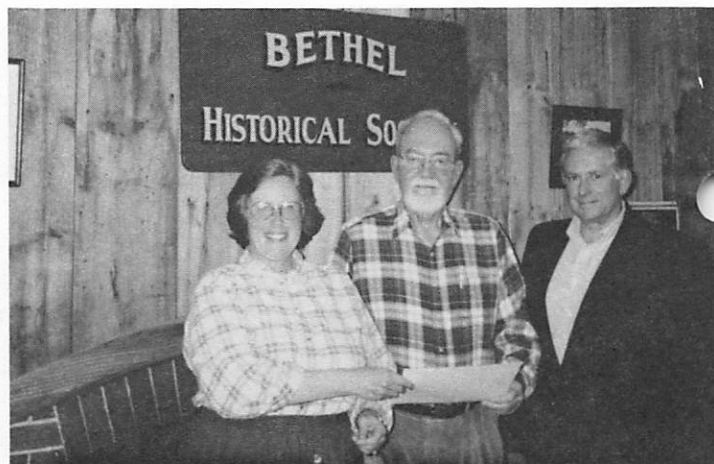
Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Quality Paperback
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C. Wight, *A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

D. B. Wight, *Wild River Wilderness* \$5 Paper

P. Wight, *Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.



Kenneth Bohr, center, presents the 1997 Bethel Historical Society Preservation Award to Jan Todd while husband John looks on. They were honored for their stewardship of the former Purington House on Main Street.

(Membership, continued from page 3)

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BOOK NOTES

The following books are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Poiner Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Include \$4 per order to cover shipping and handling.

A Genealogical History of Freeman, Maine 1796-1938, In Three Volumes by George A. and F. Janet Thompson. 1996. Pp. 1353, 3 vols., paper, \$163.50.

More than just a town history, this remarkable set contains a massive genealogical register with information on nearly every family that has lived in the Franklin County town of Freeman. Other sections include data on the founding of the town, town meetings, transportation and travel, the mail service, the Agricultural Society and Grange, schools, teachers, religion, the military, town news through the years, etc. Each volume has its own evername index. The authors were founding members of the Maine Genealogical Society.

Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Court Records, 1772-1799 by Pauline Oesterlin. 1996. Pp. 482, paper, \$37.

More than 8000 Hillsborough County court records have been abstracted for this book, which is divided into several sections (individuals, institutions, warnings out, and other assorted records). Within each section, records have been abstracted in index form, alphabetically by plaintiff name. Included are plaintiff's occupation/title and residence, defendant's name, occupation/title and residence, document date, date of recording, cause of action, file number, and notations. The introductory material includes a brief glossary of titles, occupations and legal processes to aid researchers unfamiliar with these terms.

History of the Town of Leeds, Androscoggin County, Maine, From Its Settlement, June 10, 1780 by J.C. Stinchfield, with new material added by David C. Young. 1996. Pp. 498, paper, \$31.

A reprint of the 1901 history with new additions, over three quarters of this book is devoted to genealogical records, made accessible by the new master index. Included are marriage intentions from 1801-1901 and illustrations, as well as a biographical section containing Leeds men who were alive when the book was originally published. The narrative portion includes the founding of the town, its location and natural features, churches, schools, a list of town officers from 1801-1901, and military records for the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War.

Biographical Dictionary of the Youngs (Born circa 1625-1870) from Towns Under the Jurisdiction of York County, Maine by Louise Rider Young. 1996. Pp. 209, paper \$21.

The third volume on the Young family of the northeast-United States, this book contains a listing of all proprietors, pioneers, land owners, heads of families, soldiers and sailors, brides, widows, and orphans with the name of Young in York County. Sources include military records, censuses, vital records, court records, gazetteers, church records, cemetery inscriptions and local histories. Maps are also included. Some 1547 Young and 114 allied family names are found in the individual entries.

(Membership)

Albuquerque, NM; Leah Sprague, Dover, MA; Priscilla Stevens, East Winthrop; Marian Stock, Romona, CA; Mark Stoffan, Portland; Nancy Stowell, Bethel; Susan Strange,

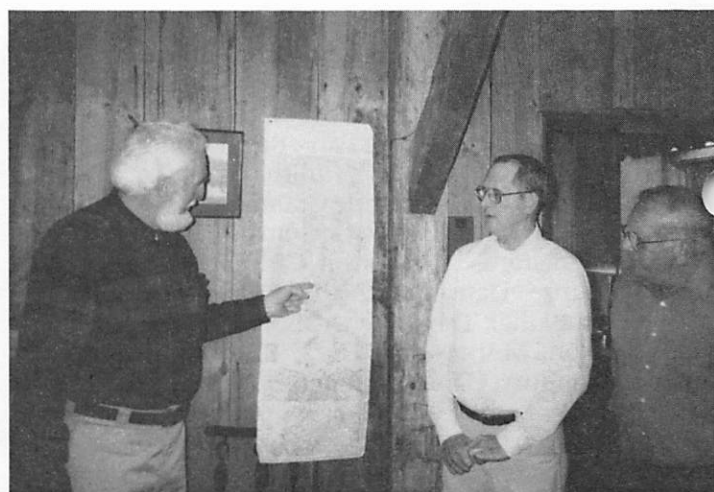
(continued on page 6)

(Membership, continued from page 5)

Potomac, MD; James Swan, Bethel; Arthur Taylor, Bethel; Dixie-Lea Thayer, Bangor; Charles Thing, Topsfield, MA; Jerry Vincent, Bethel; Shireen Vincent, Bethel; James Thompson, Eden, NC; Judith Thompson, Old Town; Maureen Tinnesz, Raleigh, NC; Peter Tommila, Hawaiian Gardens, CA; Barry Tracy, Booklyn, NY; Christine Trefethan, Bethel; Mark Vail, Salt Lake City, UT; Lauretta Vero, Bethel; Dan Vogt, Colchester, VT; Donald Wales, Salem, OR; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wall, Jr., Nashville, TN; Bev Wanlin, Pinole, CA; Donnalee Wells, Fremont, NH; Roger Wheeler, Bethel; Carolyn Winslow, Manchester, MA; Nancy Willard, Bryant Pond; Marie Witter, Bethel; Rebecca Zicarelli, Brookline, MA

Senior

Esther E. Anderson, Brockton, MA; Elizabeth Bailey, Bethel; Elizabeth Baker, Rumford Point; Dorothy Barger, Stillwater, OH; Helena Bartlett, Bethel; Shirley Bassett, Derby, VT; Dulcie Bean, Williamsburg, VA; John Bean, Williamsburg, VA; Lois Beaudoin, Berlin, NH; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Sharon Bennett, Salineno, TX; Harriet Bensen, Long Branch, NJ; Eleanor Bestick, Braintree, MA; Mary Billings, Bryant Pond; Lewis Bissell, Jackson, NH; Elizabeth Blake, Bethel; John Blakney, Plainfield, CT; Ruth Blakney, Plainfield, CT; Rev. Raymond Bradley, Jr., Riverside, RI; Sally Bradley, Riverside, RI; Betty Britt, Blue Hill Falls; Bessie Brooks, Riverside, CA; Carl Brooks, West Paris; Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Marion Brooks, Naples; Beatrice Brown, Bethel; Caroline Brown, Colorado Springs, CO; Doris Brown, Bethel; James Brown, Bethel; Ida Bryant, Bangor; Albert Buck, Norway; Norma Buck, Norway; Gurdon Buck, Watertown, MA; Ann Carlson, West Lebanon, NH; Ethel Carpenter, West Lebanon, NH; Lyndell Carter, Bethel; Patricia Carter, Bethel; Richard Carter, Bethel; Beverly Cassara, Cambridge, MA; Ernest Cassara, Cambridge, MA; Reginald Chamberlain, Rumford; Albert Chapman, Harbert, MI; Harold Chapman, Lancaster, PA; Jeanette Clifford, South Paris; Adaline Clough, Bethel; Louise Clough, Concord, NH; Irene Cole, Waltham, MA; Evelyn Collins, New Cumberland, PA; Helen Connolly, Port Ludlow, WA; Edgar Coolidge, Quincy, MA; Edith Coolidge, Bethel; Albert Cotton, Bethel; Ruth Cox, Bryant Pond; Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI; Roland Crocker, Riverside, RI; Ruth Cummings, Bethel; Edna Curtis, Bethel; Vivian Daicy, Portland; Jerrold Davis, Cheshire, MA; John Davis, South Paris; Yoshiko Davis, South Paris; Carol deLemos, Needham, MA; Edward deLemos, Needham, MA; Ruth Dobson, Hopkinton, NH; Phyllis Dock, Bethel; Gayland Dooen, Bethel; Mary Dooen, Bethel; Elizabeth Duplisea, Gray; Marianne Durgin, Belmont, MA; Burton Emerson, Falls Church, VA; Muriel Faudi, Bethel; Natalie Fain, Bethel; Richard Fain, Bethel; Jessie Fairbanks, South Paris; Martha Farrington, Oxford; Joanne Fortier, Windham; Louise Franklyn, Bethel; John Gagnon, Eliot; Jane Gibson, West Paris; Clarice Gibson, Bethel; William Gibson, West Paris; Arthur Gilbert, West Bethel; Betty Gilbert, Bethel; Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; Donald Goodenough, Trenton, NJ; Celia Gorman, Bethel; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; Alice Gray, Sebago Lake; Beatrice Grover, Bethel; Jean Grover, Locke Mills; Dr. David Hall, Butte, MT; Mary Hall, Butte, MT; Charles Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA; Kathryn Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA; Frances Harding, Bethel; Richard Harding, Bethel; Fred Hayden, Bethel; George Hayes, Sr., Bethel; Clayton Heath, Norway; Helen Heath, Norway; Edward Hitchcock, Bethel; Elizabeth Hitchcock, Bethel; Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel; Richard



Korean War veteran Richard Valentine points to a spot on the map of Korea while fellow veterans Herbert Dunham and Richard Littlefield look on during the oral history night focusing on recollections of the war.

Hoeh, Bethel; Kathleen Holden, West Paris; Lucille Holman, Dixfield; Lyman Holman, Dixfield; Frank Houghton, Winter Park, FL; Alfred Howard, Manchester; Patricia Hughes, Rumford Point; Marita Hunton, Norway; Jean Hutchins, Bethel; Lee Hutchins, Bethel; Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; R. Douglas Hutchinson, Dixfield; Irene Hutchinson, Dixfield; Vernon Ingraham, Marian, MA; Marion Irely, Toledo, OH; Mildred Jackson, Bethel; John Jacobsen, Jr., New York, NY; Eleanor Johnson, Portland; Dr. Harold Jones, Raymond; Frances Jordan, Poland; Jean Kailey, Bethel; Paul Kailey, Bethel; Dene Kaufner, Redding, CA; Earlon Keniston, Bethel; Mary Keniston, Bethel; Carroll Kimball, Frederickton, New Brunswick; Herbert Kittredge, Hanover; Ruth Kittredge, Hanover; Thelma Knight, Montpelier, VT; Mary Kort, Minocqua, WI; Edith Lawrence, Portland; Harold Lawrence, Portland; Lois Leavitt, Gorham, NH; ;Reuell Leavitt, Gorham, NH; Peter Lenz, Norway; Mary Little, Presque Isle; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Stanley Lord, Bethel; Alfred Lovejoy, Matlacha, FL; Mary Lovejoy, West Paris; Dr. Charles Lufkin, Gulf Breeze, FL; Arlene B. Lyon, Portland; Mary March, Bridgton; Helen Mason, Springvale; Sidney Mason, Springvale; Shirley Matero, South Paris; Wildo Matero, South Paris; Robert McCrea, Meriden, CT; Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Paul McMahan, Middletown, RI; Elizabeth Mills, Bethel; Robert Mills, Bethel; Cornelius Merrill, Bethel; Caroline Merrill, Bethel; Frederick Milton, Oakdale, MA; Blaine Mills, Locke Mills; Margaret Mills, Locke Mills; Wendy Mills, Charlestown, MA; Esther Mitchell, Boothbay; Patricia Moore, Fresno, CA; Grace Morrill, Bethel; Dorothy Mulroy, Wellesley, MA; John Nowlin, Bethel; Yvonne Nowlin, Bethel; Florence O'Connor, West Paris; Beverly Onofrio, Central Falls, RI; Mansfield Packard, South Paris; Gilman Page, Frenchville; Earlon Paine, Bethel; Mary Paine, Bethel; Yvonne Pendleton, Sunnyvale, CA; Marian Perkins, Unity; Eunice Powell, Hanover; Ruth Pryor, Littleton, NH; Joan Putnam, Bethel; Norman Putnam, Bethel; Mildred Rackcliffe, Buckfield; Avis Rand, Bridgton; Judith Ray, Austin, TX; Philip Richards, Sweden; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Henry Robertson, Bethel; Adelaide Robinson, Yarmouthport, MA; Lillian Rose, Portsmouth, NH; Joan Rundle, Westport, CT; Edith Russell, Brownfield; Ruth Salo, South Paris; Eric Schwarz, Bethel; Lucia Schwarz, Bethel; Oliveanne Scott, Lovell; Ruth Scribner, Sumner; Charles Sherman, Pottersville, CA;

Margaret Sibert, Vineyard Haven, MA; Ruth Silver, Bethel; Pauline Smith, Bethel; Gloria Snyder, West Bethel; Ruth Sorofman, Rochelle, GA; Myrtle Ruth Speer, Albuquerque, NM; Warren Stearns, Hanover; Dorothy Stevens, E. Greenwich, RI; Thomas Stevens, E. Greenwich, RI; Nancy Stickney, North Salem, NH; Robert Stoddard, Merrimack, NH; Dexter Stowell, Bethel; Janet Stowell, Bethel; Alta Sturgis, South Portland; Joan Swallow, St. Johnsbury, VT; Glenn Swan, Mexico; Martha Sweatt, Bethel; Eunice Sysko, Bethel; Sigmund Sysko, Bethel; Myra Taranto, Waltham, MA; Paul Taylor, Nashua, NY; Dr. Mary Telfer, PA; Richard Thek, Seaford, DE; Charles Thayer, Bangor; Susan Thompson, Sudbury, Ontario; Clara Thurston, North Fryeburg; Jane Torrence, Huntington Beach, CA; Althea Tucker, Rumford Point; Janice Twitchell, Haddonfield, NJ; Robert Twitchell, Haddonfield, NJ; Frances Usenik, Washington, DC; Mary Valentine, Bethel; Geraldine Vangsness, Wanamingo, MN; Marguerite Varney, Livermore; Shirley Welch, Brownfield; Barbara Wheeler, Bethel; Margaret Wheeler, Bethel; Thomas Wheeler, Bethel; Maynard White, Haverhill, MA; Bernard Wideman, North Berwick; Lindley Wieden, Bethel; Pauline Wieden, Bethel; Doris Wilkins, Clearwater, FL; Marie Witter, Bethel; Robert Young, Essex, MA

Student

Jeff Angevine, Bethel; Jessica Coolidge, Bethel; Victoria Coolidge, Bethel; Jarrod Crockett, Locke Mills; Justin Gilbert, Bethel; Erica Gunderson, Bethel; Christopher Hart, Bangor; Eiranne Hart, Bangor; Alyssa Howe, Bethel; Rebekah Howe, Bethel; Eli Mann, Bethel; Cassie Mason, Bethel; Erin Murphy, Bethel; William Murphy, Bethel; Kate Nickerson, Bethel; Sarah Vedella, Bethel; Jessie Wight, Bethel; Justin Wight, Bethel

Individual Preference

Susan Herlihy, Bethel; William Herlihy, Bethel; Dr. James Hudson, Newcastle; Patricia Hudson, Newcastle; H. Merrill Luthe, Portland; Phyllis MacAulay, Newark, DE; Thomas MacAulay, Newark, DE; Michael Klotzer, Zurich, Switzerland; Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA; James A. Mann, Lunenburg, MA; Jean Ness, Auburn; Norman Ness, Jr., Auburn; Olive Risco, Bryant Pond; Henry Stewart, Boston; Patricia Stewart, Boston; Dexter Stowell, Bethel; Janet Stowell, Bethel; Weld Historical Society, Weld; Richard Wiley, Jr., Laconia, NH

RECENT GIFTS

Among the recent gifts to the Society are the following: Maine Historic Preservation Commmission, postcards of the Bethel area; Geraldine Howe, photos of the Bryant family of Bethel, advertising cards for area businesses; West Parish Congregational Church, wooden and plaster column from the front porch of the former Harris house on Broad Street (now the parsonage); Jane Hosterman, collection of toys from the 1930s and 1940s, Oxford Pomona Grange program, antique Christmas decorations; Otis Bartlett, 1879 letter certifying Dayton Bartlett as a teacher in District Number One school in Rumford; Doris Fraser, advertising ephemera for the Bethel area; Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, 1996 reprint of 1871 history of Buxton, Maine; Hope Tibbetts, paper ephemera relating to Bethel people and organizations; Barbara Honkala, framed photo of the family of Frank Edward Hanscom, copy of the Hastings genealogy; Blaine and Margaret Mills, copy of the Greenwood, Maine history; Pat Hudson, photos and postcards relating to William Rogers Chapman and the former Bethel Fairgrounds in Mayville; Don and Eleanor Brooks,

1927 Androscoggin River flood photos; Alice Grady, 1860 copy of *The Journal*, published in Bethel in 1860; Sally Taylor, book about Jonathan Fisher of Blue Hill, Maine; Jane Gibbs, photos taken of Bethel and the Dr. Moses Mason House in the 1960s; Richard Fraser, collection of letters relating to Bethel people, photos and slides of Bethel scenes, misc. ephemera; Allan Fraser, *Lewiston Journal* issue covering the industrial development of Rumford Falls, brochures and stationery relating to the Rangeley Lakes region, 1920s brochures issued by the South Paris Chamber of Commerce. Much appreciation is extended to all these donors for their generosity.



Sumner Burgess

MEMBER PROFILE

Sumner L. Burgess was born at Sangerville, August 18, 1922, the son of Carroll S. and Eva L. Leland Burgess. He attended Sangerville schools and graduated from Sangerville High School and the University of Maine with a degree in forestry. He served in World War II in the Philippines as a first lieutenant from 1943-45.

After graduation from the University of Maine, he was a firewarden for the Maine forest service and a forester before joining the Oxford Paper Company in 1955. He became manager of woodlands at Oxford (later Boise Cascade). Following retirement in 1985, he worked in real estate from 1987-1990.

Long active in the West Parish Congregational Church, he led the effort in 1996 to celebrate the bicentennial of the church's founding in Bethel, writing a history of the church with Margaret Tibbetts and organizing tours of 18th century sites in Bethel.

He served as a town tree warden, on the town Planning Board, and as a director of the Bethel Water District.

He married the former Lois Savage in 1943 and they became the parents of two sons and later grandparents of two children.

A life member of the Bethel Historical Society, he chaired the Society's Building Committee for many years. He played a leading role in looking at possible sites for the Society's expansion beyond the Dr. Moses Mason House until his death from cancer on February 8, 1997.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the Oxford Advertiser, 6 August 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway.

While on the way to Ship Island one of the Bethel soldiers and two others, one of whom belonged to a Conn. Regt., and the other a New Hampshire soldier got into a

(continued on page 8)

(Bethel Soldiers, continued from page 7)

"scimmage" and it became necessary to handcuff the trio. But this did not quell the disturbance. Cooper, who appeared the strongest man of the three "went for" the others in detail and "laid them out" with a blow from his handcuffs. "There," said he to the last, "I am from Maine and I can lick out the whole of Conn. myself."

By the first of March 1862, nearly all the troops had arrived at Ship Island, and Gen. Butler with the last installment was daily expected by Gen. Phelps, who was the senior officer in command in the absence of Gen. Butler. Weeks passed in painful suspense and when he had been almost given up for lost, the Mississippi, with the General and his staff on board, steamed into the harbor. He had been thirty days on the way, where the elements and an incompetent sea-captain had done their best to send him to the bottom.

The voyage had begun on the 25th of February, and as the good ship moved out of Hampton Roads. Gen. Butler began to feel that the difficulties and vexations of getting to his destination were over. Not so, however, the weather was fine and the night passed pleasantly. The morning broke beautifully upon a tranquil sea and the superb ship bowled along before a fair wind. Landsmen began to fear that they would complete the voyage without having experienced what is so delightful to read about in Byron, "A Storm at Sea."

When they arrived off Hatteras a change had taken place in the weather. It was indeed a place of storms, and of sufficient strength and fury to satisfy the most fastidious. A furious tempest arose, and men who had been accustomed to the sea were sought out among the soldiers to assist in managing the ship. The storm abated, but when off Cape Fear, in sight of land, the incompetent captain ran his vessel upon Frying Pan Shoals, and foolishly throwing overboard his anchor while the ship was moving slowly driven by the wind, it was drawn into the side of the vessel, piercing the forward compartment into which the water poured in a torrent. Benjamin Franklin, dead in Christ Church burial ground at Philadelphia, saved the ship, for it was he who first learned from the Chinese and suggested to the occidental world the expedient of building ships with water-tight compartments.

While in peril, the men were cheered at their work by the presence on deck of Gen. Butler's wife, cool and collected as the General himself. The strain was severe upon usually quiet nerves. One man's hair turned white had one is said to have gone mad. A steamer soon came in sight and after many difficulties the Mississippi was got off the shoals and into deep water. It was towed into Port Royal on the South Carolina coast and repaired, and in due time sailed to Ship Island where the arrival of Gen. Butler was greeted with the utmost enthusiasm by the troops and at once he set about the accomplishment of the objects of the expedition.

Farragut had command of the naval forces, with Admiral Porter then a Captain in charge of a fleet of mortar schooners. Upon a consultation of the Army and Navy officers the following plan of operations was decided upon, which was substantially carried out and resulted in the capture of New Orleans. The mortar schooners were to attempt the reduction of forts Jackson and St. Philip, built on the banks of the Mississippi River about 75 miles below New Orleans, and during their bombardment Farragut's

larger vessels were to remain out of fire as a reserve. The army to remain at the mouth of the river to cooperate-operate in case of emergency and garrison the forts when captured. If the forts were not reduced Farragut was to try to attempt to run past them, while Gen. Butler should invest Fort Jackson and assault it. Lieut. Weitzel, chief engineer, had once been stationed in the fort and was well acquainted with the surrounding country. His services therefore were of the utmost value.

The troops were formed into three brigades under Generals Phelps and Williams, and Col. Shapley. The fleet was in the highest state of efficiency. Many of the officers had spent the greatest part of their lives upon the sea. Of the sixty-three years Farragut has lived, fifty-two had been a naval officer in the United States. No naval commander, not even the great Nelson, understood his duties better.

All was ready on the morning of the 18th of April, when Fort Jackson opened fire upon the fleet of mortar vessels, the first shot striking about a hundred yards from the one in advance. A quick flash and a deep roar replied, whirling a large black ball of over 200 pounds weight a mile into the air, and bending a majestic curve it swiftly descended and burst in the vicinity of the fort. In an hour perfect range had been obtained, and a shower of shells was rained down upon the doomed garrison. The soldiers climbed into the rigging of the Union war vessels below the mortar boats to watch the rise and fall of the shells, and when an effective shot would be made, would cheer with all their might. The effects of the concussions following the discharge of the guns was tremendous, the men being obliged to stand on tip-toe with open mouths when guns were being tried, and to have their ears stopped with cotton or other substances. Even the fish in the river were stunned and killed and rose to the surface in great numbers and went whirling by in the rapid current. The bombardment during the night presented a most beautiful and grand appearance, and often immense rafts of pitch-wood set fire would be sent down river among the fleet tightening up the surrounding country as the sun at noon day. These did not however do any serious damage. The bombardment continued for about a week when Farragut ran the forts and batteries with his war vessels, and anchored in front of the Crescent City. The forts were invested and surrendered, and Gen. Butler with his troops marched into New Orleans about the first of May and established his headquarters at the St. Charles Hotel.

A goodly share of the venom of rebellion appeared here among the leading classes, which needed some of the strongest doses of Butler's medicine to counteract its deadly effects. In no parts of the South has its equal been seen. Gen. Butler, however, was equal to the emergency. The roaring mob was quieted down. One, Wm. Mumford, who had torn down a U.S. flag from one of the public

EDITOR'S CORNER

In our Member Profile column in the last issue we inadvertently omitted the names of several other volunteers who help with mailings: Arlene Lowell, Rudy and Barbara Honkala, and Rodney and Geraldine Howe. We regret the error. If there is anyone out there who would like to join our mailing volunteers, please call the Society office at 824-2908. We are always looking for more people to assist with mailings.

SRH

buildings was arrested by a detachment of soldiers from Captain Hastings' Bethel Company, and upon being tried and condemned to be hung, was promptly executed by Gen. Butler's order. So hostile were the leading citizens of New Orleans of the Union troops, especially the female portion thereof, that the advent of the yellow fever was invoked for the destruction of their enemies.

"Make the Yellow Jack come and take them away," was heard on every hand.

"The Prayer of the Wicked Availeth Not" and Gen. Butler won a signal triumph over the thugs of New Orleans. His famous order No. 28 although calling down upon his head the wrath of Jeff Davis, protected his troops from insult from the female rebels, and his contest with and victory over the foreign consuls taught all classes that they must respect the national authority.

Upon the occupation of the city, Col. Shepley was appointed Military Governor of Louisiana, and Lieut. Col. Kimball was promoted to Col. of the 12th Maine. Major D..R. Hastings having resigned, Capt. G. A. Hastings was promoted to Major, and the command of the Bethel Company devolved on Lieut. Elisha F. Goddard of Rumford.

Lieut. Dekay, of Gen. Williams staff, was on board a gunboat descending the Mississippi when he was fired into by guerrillas and wounded so badly that he died about a month afterward. While his funeral procession was passing through the streets of New Orleans, Gen. Butler being absent from the city. it was greeted with derisive laughter and insults. A Mrs. Phillips was particularly demonstrative, and on the return of the return of the commanding General, this woman and one, Fidel Keller, who had exhibited some bones in a shop window labeled "Chickahominy," meaning and intending that the bones should be taken by the populace to be the bones of a United States soldier slain in that battle, were ordered to be brought before him. Sergt. A.M. True, with a detachment of soldiers, on making the arrest, found that he "had caught a tartar" in Mrs. Phillips, but the sight of bayonets with the threat that they would be used if necessary, finally brought her to terms. Gen. Butler promptly sent them to Ship Island for incarceration, Keller getting two months at hard labor.

A good story about Sergt. True, though occurring farther on, will not be out of place here. The incident occurred when the 12th Maine was attached to Gen. Grover's Division and stationed at some point outside New Orleans. Strict orders had been given by Gen. Grover against foraging. Passing one day with his staff over a road in an out of the way place, "Maj." True was suddenly surprised removing the pelt from a lamb he had surreptitiously taken. The General drew up in front of the slayer of the sheep with, "True don't you know what the order is?" Making the best salute he could under the circumstances, he answered, "I do General, but no damn sheep can bite me twice and live." The staff officers greeted this reply with shouts and laughter and the General joining in the merriment rode on without another word of reproof.

(to be continued in the next issue)

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

1934-May 1, Planted 6 lbs. peas. Hauled manure and spread it. Land is pretty well dried off. No frost except one pat in road by lower bridge. Nice warm weather. 78 deg. in



William Hastings (left rear) poses with his friends and children near Upton: front row (l-r), William, Edward, and Barbara Hastings and Donald Brooks, back row (l-r): D. Grover Brooks, Dana Brooks, and Alice Joy Brooks. Photo courtesy of Barbara Hastings Honkala.

shade here at noon. May 2, Fair and warm morning. Sugar eat at Grange Hall. May 3, Showers. May 4, Harrowed today. Fair and warm. May 5, Windy. May 6, Fair and cooler. Finished the manure. May 7, Spread fertilizer and harrowed. Showery and colder than _____. May 8, Started planting spuds. Planted 2 and a half acres. I harrowed the oat ground. May 9, Planted spuds and tinkered Ormies [Ormando B. Farwell, a nearby neighbor just up river from the Hastings farm] planter. Fair and cold. Bob in Portland. May 10, Planting--colder and windy. May 11, Planted for Farwell. May 12, Planted for Farwell. Colder and windy. May 13, Fair but cool. May 14, Planting spuds. May 15, Finished Farwell's potatoes. May 16, Planted some garden seeds. Wind blows a gale and colder than _____. Soil is all blowing off our Home piece which is seed to oats and grass. Awful dry. May 17, Colder than ever. Had to have a furnace fire. Guess our Spring will be Winter. May 18, Cold. May 19, Plowed and harrowed. May 20, Cloudy but warm. May 21, Plowing. May 22, Harrowing. Thunderstorms caught us on the intervale. May 23, Plowed for John [Howe]. Fairly warm. wind west. May 24, White frost last night. Water froze and pipes froze. Nice morning. Brooder fires are out for good I hope. May 25, Plowed for Haakon [Olson]. Finished the piece that Capt. Russ [Swan] abandoned with his Fordson. May 26, Rained a little. I harrowed until noon and went to Bethel in p.m. Car inspected and tagged. May 27, Fine day and warm. Polished car and went to Greenwood. Played tennis. Last set was 13-11. May 28, Nice morning. Plowing on Home piece. 5 acres. That is our last potatoe piece. May 29, Harrowing same. Hot and dry. May 30, Planted garden. May 31, Planted spuds for Leo [Cole, his brother-in-law].

June 1, Planted spuds on our own. June 2, Plowed for Haakon. Hot and dry; dust flies in clouds. I have shot two woodchucks. June 3, Fine day. Greenwood. June 4, Planted garden and built fence on Swift Place. June 5, Hottern H____. Plowed rye under and harrowed. 96 deg. Bad forest fire in upper State. June 6, Still hot. Cultivated with tractor. Showers in p.m. Fire at Millinocket burned two townships. 10 miles wide and 25 long, 40,000 acre and still going strong. June 7, Colder--a real change in the weather. Mosquitoes the worst I've ever seen. Cultivating. June 8,

(continued on page 10)

(Diary, continued from page 9)

White frost. Water froze. Potato plants blackened. June 9, Warmer. Hung finish on shed and cultivated. Set out tomatoes. June 10, Went to Bolsters Mills, Otisfield, and Casco [Sunday drive]. June 11, Shingled shed wall and put on porch rail. June 12, More carpenter work. June 13, Cultivated a.m. Sick in p.m. June 14, Cultivated all day. Showers. June 15 to 27, Cultivated all spuds once a week. Raised garage and filled in floor, etc. June 27, Started haying. Green clover is hard to dry. Showers about every day. Starting to scrape paint off the canoe. June 28, Haying and cultivating. June 29, Haying and cultivating. Good hay day. Bob went to So. Paris. We bought 100 lbs. of cup grease for \$7.50 and 25 lbs. chassi lube for \$2.50. Saved about \$10 on the lot. June 30, Mowed and cocked up hay. Scraped canoe in the p.m. Finished one side. Awful job. 14 man hours on that one side.

(to be continued)

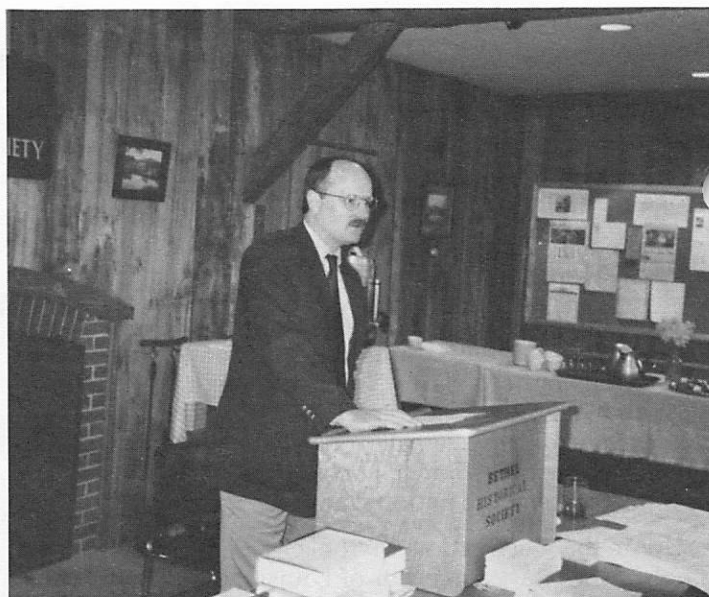
IN MEMORIAM

- Died, 13 January 1997, Virginia Weston, Rumford, Life Member
Died, 31 January 1997, Harold Powell, Hanover, Senior Member
Died, 8 February 1997, Sumner Burgess, Life Member
Died, 18 February 1997, Wilfred Conary, Gilead, Life Member
Died, 22 February 1997, Frederick McMillin, Bethel, Life Member
Died, 11 March 1997, Edwin Brown, Bethel, Senior Member
Died, 18 March 1997, Stuart F. Martin, Rumford, Senior Member
Died, 2 April 1997, Dr. Lawrence D. Kimball, Jr., Newburyport, MA, Life Member
Died, 18 April 1997, Catherine Lyon Bush, Belmont, MA, Life Member
Died, 30 April 1997, Martha Long, Kingston, NH, Life Member
Died, 25 May 1997, Norris Brown, Bethel, Life and Honorary Member

(Clark Street, continued from page 1)

In the 1950s there were fourteen children on the street who often played together and enjoyed watching "The Howdy Doody Show" at 5 P.M. when television first arrived in Bethel. Since the railroad continues to be near this street, trains have had a marked influence on Clark Street residents. Walking down the tracks to sneak a smoke was not uncommon for high school students. On a more positive note, there was ice skating down near the railroad bridge or in the field below the street as well as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Howard Cole is an avid train enthusiast and Gertrude Hutchins communicates with railroad engineers by waving "hello" and receiving a responsive "toot" from the locomotive. We also remember twenty or thirty trains per day during World War II.

Beginning on the left at the Main Street end of the street and going in a clockwise direction, the former Perry Lapham house goes back to 1864 when George Holmes sold land and building to John F. Leach (1834-1890). The house remained in the Leach family until 1923 when it was sold to the First Universalist Parish of Bethel. After presumably being used as a parsonage, it was sold the following year to Perry C. Lapham (1875-1969). It continued in the Lapham family until Esther Lapham Brown (1910-



Dr. Gregory Gallant, Director of the Margaret Chase Smith Library, discusses research during the publications workshop held during the annual meeting of Maine Archives and Museums, which was hosted by the Society on May 17.

1976) conveyed the property to Roger Spugnardi, an administrator for S.A.D. # 44, in 1968. Spugnardi sold the premises to Robert Gerardi, superintendent of S.A.D. # 44, in 1970. Subsequent owners have included Daniel and Judy Smith, John and Beverly Gasser, Cathy Bennett, Sherry Thurston, Malcolm Swazey, and David and Sherry Thurston. Since 1990, it has been used for guests at the Sudbury Inn.

This house was long the home of the Morgan family. Timothy Chapman sold the property to Collins (1842-1939) and Albion (1871-1937) Morgan in 1892. Collins Morgan fought in the Civil War as a member of the celebrated 20th Maine Regiment. He was Bethel's last surviving veteran of that war. I remember him sitting on the front stoop and being helped into a car to participate in a Memorial Day parade. Lillian Morgan (1903-1972), wife of his son Gerry (1882-1965), was a hard-working, energetic, likable woman, who appeared to look after everyone: Gerry, Collins, her children, Kenneth, Arthur, Doris, Katherine, Olin, several elderly people including Perley Wing and his wife Bertha, and Charlie Wheeler, plus three grandchildren, Barry, Paul, and David Salway. She also assisted Pearl Ashby Tibbetts (1884-1982). Charles E. Wheeler was residing here in 1927 with the Collins Morgan family. Francis Clark acquired the house in 1973. She filled Lillian Morgan's shoes very well, hurrying off from one job to another, doing many different things (among them working in the Bethel Library and the Bethel Savings Bank) and sharing her superior garden with skunks, coons, deer, and relatives and friends. In the late 1980s, she sold to Lillian Lowell, who conveyed the property in May 1993 to the present owners, Rob and Jenny Ochtera.

Norma Jodrey (1914-1995) lived here for nearly fifty years until her death. She and her husband Walter (died 1997) purchased the property from his father Austin Jodrey (1881-1951) in 1944. Walter always had the shiniest car and the neatest garden in the neighborhood, an example for the rest of us. This house was also in the Morgan family, discussed previously. In 1911, Collins Morgan sold his share to his son Albion (1871-1937). Albion conveyed the

property in 1916 to his son-in-law Perley Wing (1868-1951) and his sister Bertha (1879-1958). Perley Wing conveyed the property to Austin Jodrey in 1920. Walter Jodrey transferred sole ownership to Norma Jodrey in 1964. The site has been owned since 1984 by Norma Jodrey's children, Harlan and his sister Barbara Merrill. From 1951 to 1955, Ene Smith (Mills) spent many winter nights at the Jodrey residence during her Gould Academy years because her home off the West Bethel Flat Road in Mason was often snowbound.

On the site of Harlan Hutchins' house was a residence whose origins go back to the 1860s when Anna S. Harden acquired it from Clement S. Heath (1820-1874). She sold the property to Calvin Bisbee in 1894. On 4 December 1894, the Oxford Democrat recorded: "C.E. Bisbee is remodeling the house purchased of Mrs. Harden, which will make Clark Street very attractive in appearance." Other owners include Perley Wing, Wallace Kilgore, and C. Pearl Parker (1878-1956), who sold the property to Walter and Norman Jodrey for \$2400 in 1946. Several days later, they conveyed the premises to Harlan and Gertrude Hutchins. Sena Littlehale Parker (1878-1945), C. Pearl Parker's wife, had a little bull dog who used to nip at the heels of anyone who walked by. In the summer, she had a parrot hanging in a cage in a tree. This was in one of the poplars later blown down by the hurricane of 1938. The parrot would call "Barb" and imitate Norma Jodrey to perfection. He was later moved to Dr. Greenleaf's on Vernon Street where he lived until the 1970s. Fenton "Buster" Robertson purchased the old house of Harlan and Gertrude and moved it to Paradise near where Manning Chapman lives today on a foundation that would not accommodate the bathroom. Pearl Parker was a night watchman at Springer's Mill (later Hanover Dowel); one night he told us he coughed his false teeth right into the furnace that he was stoking. Stanley Davis (1926-1973) framed the Hutchins' present house and Harlan finished the building in September 1958.

Crossing the street, Norris Brown acquired the land for his house from F. Edward Hanscom, Jr. (1902-1980) in 1938 and the original portion of his house was derived

from Hattie Hutchinson (1887-1974). It was moved from the present Church Street athletic field of Gould Academy to Railroad, up Main and then to Vernon with Norris' father Tom (1893-1986) sitting on the ridgepole lifting the wires on two trucks. The house was renovated in 1949 and again in 1980. The turnaround for Clark Street is adjacent to our driveway and most people negotiate it successfully. One night, however, a group of merry-makers drove to the end of the street and kept going. Deer were once hunted successfully in our area until attorney Henry Hastings (1918-1968) succeeded in obtaining passage of an ordinance prohibiting shooting within the village limits. Norris and I once had our own private phone system with the Jodreys across the street.

(continued on page 12)



Margaret LaCombe (center) discusses with Society life members Kitty and Ted Chadbourne at the May monthly meeting some details of the notorious Littlefield murders, which received national attention sixty years ago. Mrs. LaCombe is currently writing a book on the subject.

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(Clark Street, continued from page 11)

Howard Cole purchased the former Edwards pasture from Beatrice Brown (later Conrad) (1908-1982) in 1953. Bea referred to this lot as "the barnyard and small orchard" when she sold it to Cole for \$600. The house was built by Herb Swan (1882-1953), who died and was completed by Everett Cross and Willis Ward (1905-1977). Howard and Virginia Cole were told when they proposed to build here that the ledge would interfere with the construction and attract lightning, but so far they have enjoyed the trains, a pool, and winters in Florida. The moose who visited them in the winter of 1995-96 was not so welcome as he chomped much of the shrubbery around the house.

Since Clark Street is a dead end street with limited traffic, it became a playground for area children in the 1940s. Children bearing the surnames Chadbourne, Mills, Wermenchuck, Nutting, Brown, Blake, Littlefield, and Hutchinson all spent many happy hours here in a variety of games and other activities.

As one looks back on the history of Clark Street, he or she is impressed with the stability that has characterized life here. Families have lived here for generations and with the exception of two houses, all residents have lived here for years. This fact distinguishes Clark Street and is one of the reasons why we are pleased to call it home.



John Frisbee, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Historical Society, discusses the importance of mission statements at the four day American Association of State and Local Workshop hosted by the Society. Regional sponsors were the Maine Association of Museums, the Maine State Museum, the Maine Historical Society, New England Museum Association, and the Bethel Historical Society. Participants came as far away as Missouri and Mississippi to learn more about enhancing partnerships between historical agencies and their communities.

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